



NORES NEWS

JUNE 2017 – The month dedicated to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Diocese of Northampton, Office for RE, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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From the Episcopal Vicar

Mgr Kevin

From taking on this work I have always insisted that Catholic schools have as a fundamental purpose to allow everyone in them to achieve their God-given potential. For me this has meant not just ensuring we ensure our young people have every opportunity they should, but that every member of staff should find their fulfilment working within our schools.

St Irenaeus talks about *Gloria Dei, Homo Vivens – the glory of God is a human being fully alive*. St Catherine of Siena puts it another way - *Se sarete quello che dovete esserete, metterete fuoco in tutta l'Italia, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world [Italy] on fire"*. [The Bishop of London began his sermon at Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding with that phrase]. Where any member of staff, accepting all the usual ups and downs of working anywhere, does not find fulfilment in our schools then we need to ask serious questions as to why that is the case, and what we need to do for them. I wrote about some of the challenges last month, and again want to reiterate our concerns. There are factors outside our control to a degree, although we need as a community to challenge them. This is why a recent article in *The Independent*, quoting government statistics and Rebecca Allen, director of the Education Datalab think tank, was alarming. In summary: *In 2010 24,100 new primary and secondary teachers qualified and began work in 2010, the same year a number of serious education reforms were announced by the Coalition government. By the end of 2015/16 however, 7,230 of those teachers had left their jobs to pursue a different career, about one third. About one in eight (13 per cent) had left after just a year. There is a "crisis" in teacher recruitment and retention. Teaching is now "incredibly difficult", as staff are increasingly bogged down with paperwork and accountability tasks that are leaving them exhausted and unmotivated. More needs to be done, in particular to help new teachers, to stop them walking out the door, A survey of more than 3,000 teachers under the age of 36, almost half said mental health concerns could force them to resign, with heavy workloads and lack of support cited as key problems. The shortage will worsen with the number of secondary school-age pupils expected to spike by more than 500,000 to 3.3 million by 2025.*

The recent statement by our bishops following their Symposium with Schools Commissioners and Finance is strongly supportive of Catholic education as part of the mission of the Church.

As Bishops, we recognise the great value of our Catholic schools. We see the deliberate and vital role that they play in the life of the Church and in society, and for these good reasons, we commit to continue to provide and invest in Catholic education in England and Wales. [April 2017]

We need to be very aware of the challenges that face us these days which are from external pressures. It is time for us to examine afresh how our Catholic schools, while being as good if not better than other schools, can truly allow all our staff to flourish as God wants. This will not be easy, but if we are to be true to what Catholic education is about, as I wrote last month, but we must find the necessary way forward.



Bishop Leo McCartie, Emeritus Bishop of Northampton, celebrated the 40th anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination in May. We remember him fondly and send all our prayers and congratulations. It is wonderful for the Diocese to be able to celebrate the anniversary of one who has been a Bishop for the longest time in England and Wales since the 19th century. He had been Schools Commissioner for the diocese of Birmingham and was very supportive of the schools of our diocese as bishop here between 1990-2000.

IN MEMORIAM

Fr Michael Hayes – died 15 April 2017. Father Michael will be known to many from St Mary's Twickenham, and more recently Mary Immaculate Limerick, and as editor of *Pastoral Review*. He had worked for the education service of Southwark diocese before Twickenham, and his loss is marked at a reactively young age.

Monsignor George Stokes – died 27 April 2017. Many will remember Monsignor George from the courses organised by the Westminster Province, for aspiring Heads and Deputies. He was Director of education for Brentwood diocese from 1991 to 2016. He played a very significant part in the development of Catholic education across England and Wales, and will be sorely missed for his wit and wisdom.

May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

From September Stephen O'Brien is retiring as Secondary RE Adviser, but keeping on his role as S4,8 Inspection Manager for 2017/18. He is a very valued member of the team and very much appreciated by our schools and all who work with him. We wish him well, and are glad that he will still be part of the NORES scene. We are in the process of recruiting as Secondary RE Adviser who will also have some time to develop theological resources in the first year.

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY CORNER

Anne-Marie McIntosh

School Visits- School visits for the last half term are nearly all confirmed. If you are on the list and have not chosen a date please email me. Thank you.

Come and See - The recently developed 'Renew' templates were designed by the RE Subject Leaders and drawn by children and staff from some of our schools. Their purpose is twofold: to ensure consistency across in the diocese and also to ensure that the renew element of the Come and See Process is covered. The template gives the children the opportunity to record an individual response to all that they have learned in the topic and also to look ahead to see how they can take something of that learning with them. Have they made a difference?

RE Conference Our next day together is on **Thursday 22 June, 2017**. We will be joined by our Secondary Heads of RE and School Chaplains to explore Catholic Social Teaching in both its theology and practice. We did some work on this with Angela Warren from CAFOD. During the day we will be inspired as to how our schools can continue to contribute to building a more just and peaceful world. Our guest speaker is Dr Anna Rowlands from the University of Durham.

INSET - Fr Kevin and I are running three days, across the year, for anyone who teaches RE in a Primary School. During each day we will explore the underlying themes of **Come and See** in order to help increase your knowledge and confidence when teaching the topics. The first day will take place on **21 June** and will be in preparation for the autumn term RE curriculum. It doesn't have to be the same member of staff who attends each day! Look out for the flier and booking form which have already arrived in school. Or simply email admin@nores.org.uk

The whole school inset '**The Changing Shape of Catholic Education**' has been well received around the Diocese. For those schools who not yet received this, the idea is that it replaces your staff meeting for that week. Only three areas to go: South Bucks – 14 June; Luton 12 June and Milton Keynes 21 June.

Live Simply - Thank you for taking part in the 'Live Simply' Challenge so far. During the month of June our challenge is to live simply by '**Not wasting water**'. I promise to help the environment by turning the tap off when I clean my teeth. You might also consider having a **Live Simply Picnic**. In an act of solidarity with people from all over the world invite the staff and children to bring in different bread from various parts of the world. (and their water bottle) Place the different types of bread in large baskets. Have the children sit down on the grass in small groups so the staff can walk around offering the bread to taste. There is a PowerPoint, on the NORES website, under Primary RE to introduce this. **Just a thought.....** Sometimes the questions are complicated but the answers are simple!

SECONDARY RE AND INSPECTION

Stephen O'Brien

Examining the Catholic Specifications – training sessions. CREDO [Catholic Religious Education Development Opportunities] has arranged a series of four one-day sessions to assist departmental staff in understanding and preparing students for the assessment of AQA, Edexcel and Eduqas GCSEs. The days will provide curriculum input and worked examples of assessment for each of the exam boards. Notice is fairly short but the days are highly recommended. The days cost £50 per delegate with light refreshments and lunch included and run between 10am – 3pm. Each campus should be contacted directly to book a place.

Dates and venues are as follows:

Wed 21 June, St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill.

Contact: aquinas@stmarys.ac.uk or tel 0208 240 2340

Wed 28 June, Leeds Trinity University

Contact: L.McGuire@leedstrinity.ac.uk

Wed 5 July, Liverpool Hope University,

Contact: mcgraip@hope.ac.uk

Wed 12 July, Newman Uni University, Birmingham.

Contact: S.E.Docherty@staff.newman.ac.uk

A Level CP. Heythrop College, Kensington Square, London is hosting a national Catholic AS/A2 teachers CPD entitled 'New thinking on familiar topics' on Tuesday 4 July 2017 between 10.15am and 3.15pm. The day cost £50 and includes light refreshments and lunch. It promises to be a very valuable day. If you wish to attend please contact Martin Poulson SDB m.poulson@heythrop.ac.uk for bookings.

CAFOD resources Cafod has produced some new resources that can be accessed on the Secondary Inset page of their website. These include an 'Introduction to CAFOD' specifically aimed at teachers new to Catholic schools, including notes and a PPT for running the session. They have also created a session on 'Gospel Values' to support schools' CPD on British values within the Catholic school context. There is also an accompanying reflection that is aimed at KS4.

PRAYING WITH OUR SCHOOLS

PRAYER INTENTIONS – *ask the school to pray with the Pope for his intentions for June* that national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimises so many innocent people.

FEAST DAYS - pray for the schools which celebrate their feast day this month.

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| 13 June | St Anthony Primary, Slough |
| 20 June | Bishop Parker Primary, Milton Keynes |
| 21 June | St John Rigby Primary, Bedford |
| 22 June | St Thomas More Primary, Kettering, St Thomas More Upper, Bedford |
| 26 June | St Louis Primary Aylesbury |
| 29 June | St Peter Primary Marlow |
| 29 June | St Paul Comprehensive, Milton Keynes |

SCHOOLS' COMMISSION

Collette Curtis

Follow up from the Symposium of Bishops of England and Wales in March 2017

There were two clear strands to the discussions which took place between the Bishops and Dioceses.

- What is the role of Catholic Education?
- How will Dioceses seize the opportunities and face the challenges of the growing number of Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts?

You will have received a letter written on behalf of the Bishops of England and Wales acknowledging the important role Catholic schools play in the mission of the Church and their commitment to Catholic education. This is certainly a view held by Bishop Peter who recognises the hard work being carried out every day in our schools by all staff and governors.

There is no question that nationally and within the diocese Catholic Schools are providing high quality education.

Some National statistics

- 845,762 pupils are educated in Catholic schools in England and Wales.
- Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of schools in England and Wales.
- There are 2245 Catholic schools in England and Wales.
- In England, 20% of pupils at Catholic secondary schools live in the most deprived areas (17% nationally).
- In England, 33.5% of pupils in Catholic primary schools are from ethnic minority backgrounds (27.6% nationally).
- In England, Catholic schools outperform the national average English and Maths KS2 SATs scores by 6%.
- At GCSE, Catholic schools outperform the national average by 5%.
- In England, 74.7% of Catholic primary schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted (64% nationally).

The questions we are discussing within the Diocese are:
How are we strengthening our support of one another so that no Catholic School/MAT is isolated?

How can we ensure we share our expertise and best practice effectively given the physical distance between us?

How can we use the opportunities we have to share our faith with everyone who works and takes part in our community?

How can we support our young people on their faith journey so that they benefit from high quality Catholic education and continue that journey when they leave school?

We continue to work with school leaders and governors to develop these strategies together.

ESFA Condition Data Collection Programme – Update

A number of schools in the Diocese have been selected for the Condition Survey Programme by the EFSA. This is a programme used to review the condition of a sample of schools across the country to inform the level of capital funding required. Government guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/condition-data-collection-programme-information-and-guidance>

Schools in Tranche 1 will be surveyed between March and July

St Joseph's Slough

Bishop Parker, Bletchley

St Bernadette's Primary, Milton Keynes

St Mary's Primary, Aston le Walls

St Patrick's, Corby

Schools in Tranche 2 will be surveyed between September and December

St Joseph's Infant, Aylesbury

Our Lady's Primary, Amersham

Our Lady's, Wellingborough

Sacred Heart Primary, Luton

St Michael's, High Wycombe

St Brendan's, Corby

Guidance for schools.

Made in God's Image: Challenging homophobic and biphobic bullying in Catholic Schools is the title of guidance on tackling homophobic and biphobic bullying in Catholic Schools produced by St Mary's University, in collaboration with the CES..

Made in God's Image forms part of the commitment of the Catholic Church to the pastoral care of pupils and in particular the elimination of homophobic stereotyping and bullying for all children and young people educated in our Catholic schools. Its aim is to challenge all forms of homophobic and biphobic bullying in order to create safe spaces for pupils to come together to learn.

Congratulations to Angie Marchant, clerk to the Bucks school partnership. Angie is a finalist in the Outstanding Clerk category for the 2017 NGA Awards and was invited to the House of Commons on 24 May for afternoon tea and the award ceremony.

WESTMINSTER PROVINCE CELEBRATION DAY

A theology of Hope for Catholic Education

Speaker – Mike Ion

21 September 2017 for Heads, Chairs of Governors, Directors and Trusts begins with 10.30 Mass in the Cathedral with Bishop Peter, Bishop John Sherrington, and others.

Programme :

10.30 Mass in the Cathedral

11.30 Coffee/Registration in Cathedral Hall

A session before and after lunch, finishing by 3pm

Caterers – *Spoilt for Choice* – again!!!

Booking forms have been sent to schools and all Chairs and Clerks. Please reply as soon as you can.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION, CATECHESIS and CHAPLAINCY

Alex Heath

On Thursday 22 June 2017 from 9.30am-3pm at the RE Centre there will be a joint **RE & Chaplaincy Conference** entitled 'Blessed are the Merciful: Catholic Social Teaching & Practice. Led by Dr Anna Rowlands. During this joint Chaplaincy & RE Conference we will explore Catholic Social Teaching in both its theology and practice. We will be inspired as to how our schools can continue to contribute to building a more just and peaceful world. The day will also include information and examples of practical projects that schools can use and draw inspiration from in their work.

Dr Anna Rowlands is a lecturer in Contemporary Catholic Studies at the University of Durham and Deputy Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies. She is also the founding Chair of the Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice. She works mainly in the area of Political Theology and is an expert on Catholic Social Teaching. Please contact the NORES office to book your places. Thank you.

Catechists At 7.30pm on Monday 19 June 2017 at Sacred Heart RC Church Hall in Leighton Buzzard we will have our next meeting of the *Bishop's Council for Catechesis (BCC)*.

The Council recently organised a very blessed day on Saturday 13 May at the Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church in Great Missenden where Fr John Hemer MHM led us in a wonderful exploration of the Prayer of the Church. Fr John led us through the psalms, giving inspiring insights into both the Morning and Evening Prayer of the Church. We ended our day with a celebration of Evening Prayer of the Church led by Fr Wayne the parish priest. It seemed very fitting that we were gathered in the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as it was the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima that same day and we were conscious of that as we gathered in prayer. The forthcoming BCC meeting will give us an opportunity to reflect on our day at Great Missenden as well as to make plans for future events.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Course 29 & 30 June 2017 This valuable opportunity to receive training in order to promote and support youth mental health is taking place at the RE Centre at the end of June (29 & 30 June). The first cohort for this course is now full and at the time of writing we are taking names on our waiting list for a potential second cohort. If we have sufficient interest and paid up bookings for a second cohort to become viable we will be able to offer it. If you would like to come or send someone from your school or parish please contact us as soon as possible with your booking and fees as we will be finalising details very soon. Full details are available from Jackie McCarthy at the NORES Office. Thank you.

CAFOD NEWS

Deborah Purfield



Education volunteers needed

Retiring soon or have some time? We need people to give assemblies and/or workshops in schools about our work. All training and travel expenses provided. Do get in touch if you or someone you know is interested.

Book a CAFOD School visit this summer

We have a variety of fun and interactive sessions available for all age groups. Our volunteers can also give sessions on the Universal Church units and lead in the latest campaign "Power to Be". Please get in touch.

Get involved in our Campaign

Power to be campaign resources for children and young people are live on the website. This includes lesson plans, prayer guide and activity. A great way to have our student's voices heard.

Step into the Gap

Anyone aged 18 – 30: an opportunity to volunteer in the UK, gain experience, develop leadership skills and visit CAFOD partners overseas. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year Please do share the info with any interested people!

Retreat - Pope Francis' Vision for a renewed church

Pope Francis has spoken extensively on issues of poverty, inequality, refugees and the environment. This is a wonderful chance to reflect on this and look at ways we can reconnect our lives to the values of the Gospel in our homes and parishes. The day is from 10am – 3pm with a shared lunch. Please book.

Saturday 10 June : Holy Family, 226 Trelawney Avenue, Slough SL3 7UD

Saturday 1 July : St Edwards, 2 The Grove, Kettering NN15 7QQ

CAFOD volunteer Centre – dpurfield@cafod.org.uk, 01844 274 723

SCHOOL NEWS -

Appointments – from September

Caroline Lovegrove as Head of St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross
Induction – 7pm Wednesday 27 September

Paul Kassapian as Head of St Bernard's Grammar, Slough
Induction – 7pm Thursday 28 September

Fraser Donald as Head of St Thomas More, Kettering
Induction tbc

Debbie Rainer as Acting Head of St Anthony's, Slough

Resignations : Thanks and best wishes to
Simon Petre, St Teresa, Princes Risborough
Jon Davies, Thomas Becket, Northampton

NORES KALENDAR 2017-2018 - The team have established dates for all the main events and meetings for the next academic year. Copies have been sent, and we ask you to please make sure you take note of this in your planning for the year ahead.